

OCT 1 1970

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY

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October 7, 1970

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University Medical School
Palo Alto, California 94304

Dear Josh:

As you know better than anybody else, Fort Detrick is facing liquidation. None of the agencies that have looked at Fort Detrick shows any enthusiasm for assuming its operation, largely, of course, because of the lack of operating funds. None of the established agencies are keen on diverting funds from established programs, both internal and external, to assume the operation of what is to them a new facility in what would be a new program.

About six weeks ago Senator Joseph Tydings of Maryland introduced an amendment to the Senate Appropriation Bill for HEW and Labor which provides funds and specific program for the continuation of Fort Detrick. His amendment with the program incorporated therewith appeared in the Congressional Record for August 13th and would provide approximately 15 million dollars annually for total operations. This is estimated to support 687 persons. The current staff at Fort Detrick includes about 1300, of whom 300 will be separated in November. So, as you can see, this contemplates a further reduction in numbers of about 300 people.

About a week ago I talked to Dr. Vincent McRae in the President's Office of Science and Technology. He was quite pessimistic of the prospects for Fort Detrick. For your information, I enclose a copy of notes that I made on our talk.

If you agree that it is desirable to continue operations at Fort Detrick, I would recommend that you make your opinion known to the appropriate influential people in the Congress. I think letters from you to Senator Magnuson, Congressman Flood, and a few others would be most effective. May I have your ideas on this subject, and if you agree that effort should be extended to continue the Detrick installation, any suggestions for action by me or others in the Society would be greatly appreciated.

With most cordial regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,



DEC 31 '70

ack,
Turner

AFL:bmb
Enclosure
cc: Dr. Shay